



State of Wisconsin/DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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DATE: November 16, 2005
TO: Fourth Grade Teachers
FROM: Scott Hassett, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application - Deadline January 27, 2006

Arbor Day is a historic holiday dedicated to teaching your students more about trees and conservation through hands-on learning, the planting of trees! **Wisconsin will be celebrating Arbor Day on Friday, April 28, 2006.** Help us celebrate by participating in the Department of Natural Resources' special free tree seedling program for fourth grade students. Simply follow the attached application instructions and our state nurseries will carefully grade, count, and package a quality native tree seedling for each student in your classroom. We take great pride in helping your students become active stewards of the environment!

Arbor Day, as part of Wisconsin's Forest Appreciation Week (April 23-29), offers the unique opportunity to educate students and others about the value and care of trees and forests. Planting trees enhances Wisconsin's natural beauty, creates wildlife habitat, provides raw materials for many products, protects against soil erosion, improves air quality, and conserves energy by providing shade and windbreaks.

We encourage you and your students to join the celebration by; 1) ordering a free native tree seedling for each of your 4th grade students, 2) participating in the 4th grade Arbor Day essay contest, and 3) focusing on Wisconsin forests for your Earth Day (April 22nd) activities. Visit the Department's EEK! website for more ideas: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/ee/>

For best service, the Department of Natural Resources recommends that you adhere to the following guidelines when ordering your Arbor Day tree seedlings.

- (1) Properly complete the attached Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application form.
- (2) Designate one person to coordinate the ordering of trees at each school or district.
- (3) If applications are made for the entire school district, individual schools in the district **should not** order. Your adherence to this request is greatly appreciated, as it will avoid duplication and confusion. If there is any doubt, please check with your school district office before sending in your application.
- (4) Quantities of seedlings are limited. Free trees are provided **only** for fourth grade students. State statutes identify only fourth grade students as eligible for the program.
- (5) Order as soon as possible after receiving this application. **The deadline for this application is January 27, 2006.**

Thank you for helping our children develop a lifelong appreciation for trees, forests, and the environment! If you have any questions about the free tree seedling program, please contact the Griffith State Nursery, 473 Griffith Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, (715) 424-3700.

P. Scott Hassett

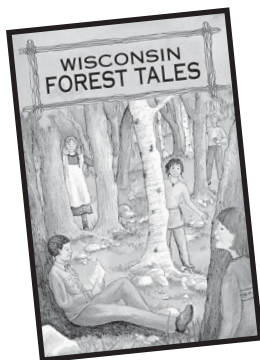
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Note to Teachers... a Few Simple Tips for Tree Care and Planting!

- ❖ **Pickup your trees promptly.** If you normally pickup your trees at a site designated by the local DNR forester, please assign one person to pickup the trees for each school or district on the appropriate date and time. Most DNR foresters have no facilities to store your trees properly.
- ❖ **Keep your trees cool.** Seedlings are a perishable product and should be refrigerated until planting time (34°-36° is ideal). Do not store your trees in the sun, a car trunk, a heated classroom or other warm place before distributing them to your students.
- ❖ **Keep your trees moist.** The seedlings are moistened and sealed in a lined bag or box at the State Nursery. Once you redistribute the seedlings to your students they will need a way to keep them moist and cool until planting time.
- ❖ **Plant your seedlings correctly.** Plant the seedlings at approximately the same depth as they grew in the nursery. Seedling roots should hang freely in the planting hole and not be crooked or twisted. Pack the soil firmly after planting. A few planting instructions will help your students achieve tree-mendous success!

New curriculum available for “Wisconsin Forest Tales”



A new set of activities to use with the book *Wisconsin Forest Tales* by Julia Pferdehirt is now available! *Wisconsin Forest Tales* is a series of eight historical fiction stories about Wisconsin forests. The book has become a popular tool in 4th-grade classrooms to help teach Wisconsin history while working on reading skills!

The new *Wisconsin Forest Tales* activities are available online at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/Resource/FTales.htm> or get a hard copy of this printed booklet of activities from: LEAF, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

DNR donated a copy of the book last year to all Wisconsin elementary school libraries. We also shipped a complimentary *Wisconsin Forest Tales* kit (including the book, a CD of children's songs and the complete text of the book, and a video) to every school.

If you teach 4th-grade students in Wisconsin and have not received the *Wisconsin Forest Tales* kit, request your free copy today! Also, while the supply of the first printing of *Wisconsin Forest Tales* lasts, the Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry is providing free sets (9 books in a boxed set) to classrooms for ongoing use. To request a copy of the kit or a set of the books, contact Kirsten Held at kirsten.held@dnr.state.wi.us.

Three sets (25 copies each) of *Wisconsin Forest Tales* books are also available for checkout from the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resources Library at UWSP. Contact them at 715-346-4853 or online at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/library/index.htm>. Teachers with access to school or public libraries in the Wisconsin Library Delivery System Network (<http://psw.scls.lib.wi.us/delivery/networks/networks.html>) can borrow these books for up to four weeks.

"Gifts from the Forest"

Teachers, please consider participating in the 17th annual Forest Appreciation Week writing contest. Have your students prepare a short essay on the theme “Gifts from the Forest” and enter the best one from your class in the statewide contest. Authors of the top entries are honored at a special ceremony at the state capitol building! Details of the contest and entry guidelines are online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/Uf/awareness/arborposter.htm#writing>





Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application

Please Print

School Name:

Contact Person's Name:

School Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

School Telephone Number (Include area code):

Home Telephone Number (Include area code):

County where trees planted:

CESA District:

School District:

Number of fourth-grade students receiving free tree seedlings:

[Office Use - enter as free tree order #5]

Instructions

1. Please print application.
2. One application per school or school district.
3. Provide school or school district name and address.
4. Provide name of contact person at school, or school district, responsible for coordinating 4th grade Arbor Day Free Tree Program for all 4th grade classes in the school or school district.
5. Provide telephone number of school or school district and home telephone number of contact person.
6. Indicate in which county the trees will be planted.
7. Indicate CESA District and school district the school is located in.
8. Indicate number of fourth-grade students in the school or the school district receiving a free tree seedling.
9. Return application to:
Griffith State Nursery
473 Griffith Ave.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
or
Fax application to
Griffith Nursery:
(715) 421-7830



Application Deadline: January 27, 2006

Limit one application per school or school district.